

Hurricane season stretches from June through November.

When a hurricane strikes, it can bring with it the tragedy of lost lives, damaged property, and people rendered homeless. Yet, even though hurricanes can't be stopped, there are some things you can do to cope with disaster if it strikes.

Whether it's before, after or even during a hurricane, there are things that you can do to help protect yourself and your family. The following information is designed to give you some important things to remember during hurricane season.

One of the most important steps is to plan ahead. Don't wait for the weather forecast to pinpoint a hurricane near your home. Take some time to carefully review potential problems and solutions so that you and your family will know how to cope with a violent storm.

Before a Hurricane

Defenses against a storm surge are few. Although sea walls and strongly constructed buildings offer some protection, it is a good idea to take some time to consider the following safety precautions.

➤ **Be alert** to hurricane and tropical storm advisories. Listen to television reports, local radio, or the National Oceanic Administration & Atmospheric (NOAA) Weather Radio to get information about storms. Don't pay attention to rumors.

➤ **Don't get stranded.** Get away from low-lying beaches or other locations which may be affected by high tides or storm waves. Tides created by the storm surge cause most hurricane-related deaths. If your escape route is over a road or bridge likely to be under water, leave early.

➤ **Board up windows** or protect them with storm shutters. Use strong bracing for outside doors, 3/4 inch plywood for doors.

➤ **Secure loose objects** in your yard. Anchor them steadily or move them indoors.

➤ **Keep on hand non-perishable food** which can be eaten without cooking. Gas and electric services necessary for refrigeration and cooking may not be available during and after a hurricane.

➤ **Store drinking water** in case the public water supply becomes contaminated.

➤ **Check flashlights** or other emergency lights to make sure they are in working condition. Keep extra batteries on hand. Never use candles or kerosene lamps.

➤ **Keep a battery-operated** radio on hand and maintain a fresh supply of extra batteries.

➤ **Fill your bathtub** with extra water for flushing the toilet.

➤ **Gas up your car.** If electrical power is off, service stations may not be able to operate pumps. Also make sure you have jumper cables.

➤ **Take an inventory** of your household. A special brochure titled, "Your Household Inventory Record" is available from your Allstate agent that will enable you to make a concise record of your belongings. We also recommend that you videotape your entire household contents for record purposes.

➤ **Leave your mobile home.** Mobile homes are extremely vulnerable to high winds. If you live in one, leave it for a more substantial shelter. Make sure you check and secure your tie-downs.

➤ **Moor your boat** securely or evacuate it to a safe area. Once secured, leave it and don't return until winds and tides have diminished.

During a Hurricane

➤ **Attempt emergency road service repairs only when absolutely necessary** - and with extreme caution. The best time is during the "eye" of the storm when the wind dies down. But remember this is only a temporary calm and the winds will return from the opposite direction, often with more force than before.

➤ **Stay home** if your house is out of danger. As long as it's sturdily built, it's probably the best place to weather the storm. Try to keep near the downwind side of the house, and stay away from windows and glass doors. If you live in a high-rise, check with your building superintendent to determine whether your building can withstand high waves and strong winds.

➤ **Stay indoors** unless you're told to evacuate. Travel is extremely hazardous when winds and tides are whipping through your area.

After a Hurricane

It comes as no surprise that even the aftermath of a hurricane can be dangerous. The following outlines some of the most important things to do after the storm has passed.

➤ **Beware of damaged utilities** - watch out for loose or dangling electric power lines. Many lives are lost by electrocution after

hurricanes. Also, beware of natural gas leaks. Report all gas and electrical problems to the proper authorities.

➤ ***Walk and drive cautiously*** - debris-filled streets are dangerous. Snakes and poisonous insects may be a hazard. Washouts may weaken roads and bridge structures, and they could collapse under vehicle weight.

➤ ***Be aware of spoiled food*** - food may spoil if refrigerator power is off more than a few hours. Freezers will keep food for several days if doors are not opened after power failure, but do not refreeze food once it begins to thaw.

➤ ***Do not use water until it's safe*** - use your emergency supply or boil water before drinking until you receive official word that the water is safe. Report broken sewer or water mains to the proper authorities.

➤ ***Take extra precautions to prevent fire*** - lowered water pressure in city mains and the interruption of other services may make firefighting extremely difficult after a hurricane.

Call Allstate...

And, don't forget to get in contact with your Allstate agent...because our catastrophe team is there to help you and your family.

At Allstate, we realize that an unusual tragedy like a hurricane calls for a special, prompt and effective service to our customers. That's one of the reasons we developed the Allstate Catastrophe Team.

When a tragedy like a hurricane strikes, the Allstate Catastrophe Team moves in right away. We're often the first on the scene to assess your damage and lend our helping hands. Our team consists of adjusters who are trained specifically to handle your loss in the most effective way and in the least amount of time.

How to Track a Hurricane

Advisories are numbered consecutively for each storm and describe the present and forecast position and storm intensity. Advisories are issued at six-hour intervals — at 11 p.m., 5 a.m., 11 a.m., and 5 p.m. Bulletins provide additional information. Each message gives the name, eye position, intensity, and forecast movement of the tropical cyclone.

Hurricane eye positions are given by latitude (for example: 13.2 degrees north) and longitude (for example: 57.8 degrees west) to the nearest one-tenth of one degree. When the storm moves within radar range, eye position may also be given as statute miles and compass direction from a specified point.

When you receive an advisory, note the advisory number, eye position, intensity, and

forecast direction of movement in the table. Then mark the eye position on the tracking chart. Because hurricanes change direction very quickly, you should concentrate more on where the storm is supposed to go than where it has been.

And, don't forget to gather important local emergency phone numbers in an accessible location.

Local Emergency Phone Numbers

Radio _____

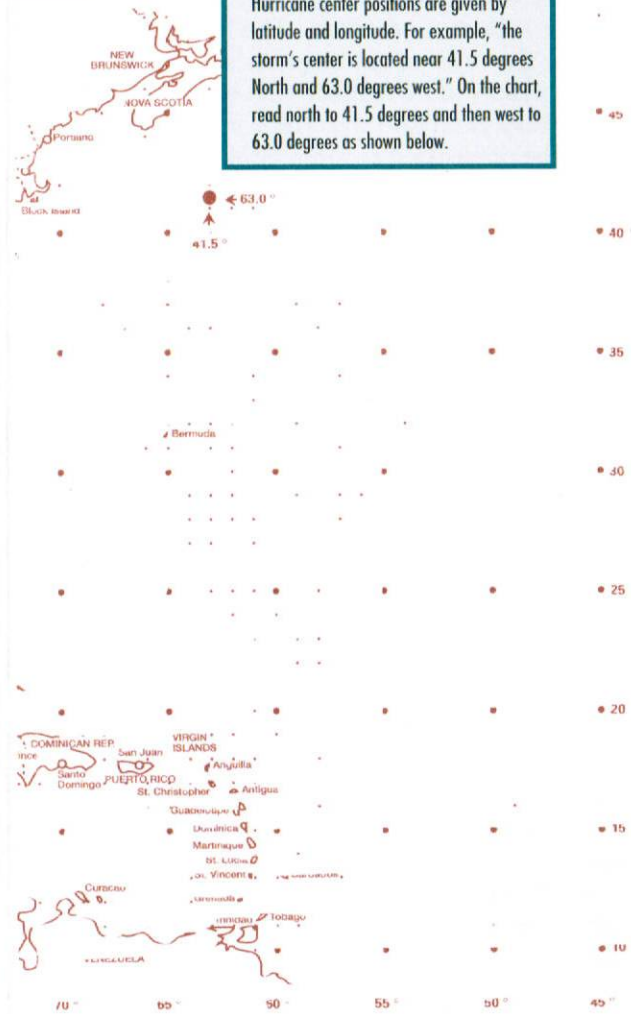
National Weather Service _____

Police _____

Fire _____



Plotting A Storm
Hurricane center positions are given by latitude and longitude. For example, "the storm's center is located near 41.5 degrees North and 63.0 degrees west." On the chart, read north to 41.5 degrees and then west to 63.0 degrees as shown below.



If You Have a Loss...

1. Contact your nearest Allstate claim office, or your Allstate agent. If the Allstate office has been damaged, and if your agent can't be reached, tune in your local radio stations for information on where the claim department can be contacted.

Be patient while your claim is being processed. In situations like these, we make every effort to settle your claims as soon as possible. However, we try to handle the most severely damaged residences first.

2. Protect your property. Make emergency repairs only when necessary, but do protect your home and valuables from further damage or theft.

Allstate is committed to helping make your lives, homes, autos, and families safer.

Allstate knows all too well just how important it is to be prepared for a hurricane. There's no better time than right now to make sure your family, your home and all your possessions are as safe as they can be.

This brochure highlights examples of safety precautions you can consider to help protect yourself, others, and your personal property. Please recognize that a particular precaution may not be appropriate or effective in every circumstance. We encourage you to use your own good judgement about what's appropriate.

Allstate Insurance Company
Home Office: Northbrook, IL
allstate.com

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L2204-5

